

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the frictional force between an item to be delivered and a birth canal surface of a mother in human vaginal child birthing so as to reduce injuries to the mother's birth canal, the risk of episiotomy, the risk of vaginal interventions, and the risk of cesarean sections during birthing, which comprises the steps of:

- 1) applying an effective amount of an organic lubricant composition to cover said birth canal surface with the onset of labor; and
- 2) additionally applying an amount of said composition to said birth canal surface during labor wherein said additional amount is effective in keeping the birth canal surface covered with said lubricant composition so that a lubricant layer is formed between said birth canal surface and said item to be delivered until said item is delivered;

said composition comprising a lubricating organic substance comprising

a polyacrylic acid;

isotonicizing substances;

a humectant; and no alkali metal salts of metaphosphates;

wherein said composition is in the form of a paste, gel, cream, suppository, or foam, and wherein said composition has lubricant film-forming properties that effect said reduction of injuries to the mother's birth canal, reduced risk of

episiotomy, reduced risk of vaginal interventions, and reduced risk of cesarean sections during birthing upon application to the mother's birth canal according to steps 1 and 2, and wherein said lubricating organic substance does not contain alginate.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said polyacrylic acid is present in a concentration of from 0.25 to 5% by weight.
30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said composition further comprises a thickener.
31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said composition further comprises at least one cellulose in a concentration of from 1 to 3% by weight.
32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said composition comprises a substance selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, glycerol, and polyethylene glycol.
33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said composition comprises carob flours in a concentration of from 0.5 to 3%.
34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said composition further comprises water.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein between 5 to 200 mL of said composition is applied to the surface of the birth canal in step 1.
36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein between 10 to 100 mL of said composition is applied to the surface of the birth canal in step 1.
37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said application step 2 takes place in multiple application steps.
38. (Canceled).
39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein application step 1 begins before dilation of the birth canal.
40. (Canceled).
41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said composition is re-applied during expulsion of the item to be delivered.
42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said composition has greater adhesion to the surface of the birth canal compared with the skin of a fetus.
43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said polyacrylic acid is a crosslinked polyacrylic acid.

44. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the frictional force between an item to be delivered and a birth canal surface of a mother in human vaginal child birthing, which comprises the steps of:

- 1) applying an effective amount of an organic lubricant composition to cover said birth canal surface with the onset of labor; and
- 2) additionally applying an amount of said composition to said birth canal surface during labor wherein said additional amount is effective in keeping the birth canal surface covered with said lubricant composition so that a lubricant layer is formed between said birth canal surface and said item to be delivered until said item is delivered;

said composition comprising a lubricant film-forming combination consisting of water and at least two substances selected from the group consisting of glycerol, polycarboxylic acid, carbopols, polyacrylic acid, hyaluronic acid and salts thereof, succinylated gelatin, liquid paraffin, white petrolatum, dimethicone, dimethiconol, cyclomethion, vegetable oils, vegetable fats, animal oils, animal fats, mineral oils, mineral fats, ~~surface active substances~~, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycols, polypropylene glycols, ethylene oxide copolymers, and propylene oxide copolymers; and no alkali metal salts of metaphosphates, wherein said composition is free of alkali metal salts of metaphosphates and in the form of a paste, gel, cream, suppository, or foam.

45. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing injuries to a mother's birth canal, reducing the risk of episiotomy, reducing the risk of vaginal interventions, or

reducing the risk of cesarean sections during human child birthing, which comprises the steps of:

- 1) applying an effective amount of an organic lubricant composition to cover surfaces of said mother's birth canal with the onset of labor; and
- 2) additionally applying an amount of said composition to said birth canal surface during labor wherein said additional amount is effective in keeping the birth canal surface covered with said lubricant composition so that a lubricant layer is formed between said birth canal surfaces and an item to be delivered until said item is delivered;

said composition comprising a lubricating organic substance comprising

a polyacrylic acid;

isotonicizing substances;

a humectant; and no alkali metal salts of metaphosphates;

wherein said composition is in the form of a paste, gel, cream, suppository, or foam, and wherein said composition has lubricant film-forming properties that effect at least one of reduction of injuries to the mother's birth canal, reduced risk of episiotomy, reduced risk of vaginal interventions, or reduced risk of cesarean sections during birthing, wherein said lubricating organic substance does not contain alginate.

46. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 28~~ A method for reducing the frictional force between an item to be delivered and a birth canal surface of a mother in human vaginal child birthing so as to reduce injuries to the mother's birth canal, the

risk of episiotomy, the risk of vaginal interventions, and the risk of cesarean sections during birthing, which comprises the steps of:

1) applying an effective amount of an organic lubricant composition to cover said birth canal surface with the onset of labor; and

2) additionally applying an amount of said composition to said birth canal surface during labor wherein said additional amount is effective in keeping the birth canal surface covered with said lubricant composition so that a lubricant layer is formed between said birth canal surface and said item to be delivered until said item is delivered;

said composition comprising a lubricating organic substance comprising a polyacrylic acid;

isotonicizing substances;

a humectant; and no alkali metal salts of metaphosphates;

wherein said composition is in the form of a paste, gel, cream, suppository, or foam, and wherein said composition has lubricant film-forming properties that effect said reduction of injuries to the mother's birth canal, reduced risk of episiotomy, reduced risk of vaginal interventions, and reduced risk of cesarean sections during birthing upon application to the mother's birth canal according to steps 1 and 2, wherein said lubricating organic substance does not contain alginate, and wherein said lubricating organic substance does not contain surface-active substances.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said composition does not contain alginate.

48. (New) A method of reducing the risk of cesarean sections during human child birthing, which comprises the steps of:

- 1) applying an effective amount of an organic lubricant composition to cover surfaces of said mother's birth canal with the onset of labor; and
- 2) additionally applying an amount of said composition to said birth canal surface during labor wherein said additional amount is effective in keeping the birth canal surface covered with said lubricant composition so that a lubricant layer is formed between said birth canal surfaces and an item to be delivered until said item is delivered;

said composition comprising a lubricating organic substance comprising

a polyacrylic acid;

isotonicizing substances;

a humectant; and no alkali metal salts of metaphosphates;

wherein said composition is in the form of a paste, gel, cream, suppository, or foam, and wherein said composition has lubricant film-forming properties that effect reduced risk of cesarean sections during birthing.